



SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

ALERT! SCAM THROUGH INTERNET

It has been brought to our attention that another scam using the Internet has surfaced. This scheme preys on unassuming customers who are selling their vehicles and placing ads on the Internet only to be taken advantage of by losing thousands of dollars of their own money.

Suspects have created a web of lies and bogus checks by answering Internet ads for sales of vehicles. This is how it works. A seller advertises a vehicle for sale on an auction site on the Internet and the highest bidder is usually the suspect who is from Nigeria. The high-bidder, Nigerian suspect, tells the seller that someone in the U.S. owes him (the suspect) money that is more than the price of the vehicle. The high-bidder wants to buy the vehicle and will have his debtor send the cashier's check to the seller (victim) to avoid international shipping/mailling delays. The high-bidder tells the seller that he should keep the amount for the sale of the vehicle and Western Union back the rest. The high-bidder sends a counterfeit cashier's check to the seller for thousands of dollars beyond the cost of the vehicle. In turn, the seller (victim) wires the remaining thousands back to Nigeria leaving the seller (victim) with a bogus cashier's check and minus thousands of dollars from his own account.

The San Antonio Police Department is working in concert with the U.S. Secret Service on this latest scam. We encourage any possible victims to come forward and warn anyone who is placing the sale of their vehicle on an auction site through the Internet be aware of this scheme.